

For-Hire Workgroup Conference Call, Summary  
January 11, 2008, 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm eastern time.

In attendance for all or part of the call: Forbes Darby, Gary Shepherd, Jason Didden, Steve Crooke, Beverly Sauls, Tom Sminkey, Michelle Kasprzak, Mike Sosik, Scott Meyers, Bob Zales.

Nicole Bartlette, Barry Clifford, and Craig Lilyestrom had other commitments and could not be in attendance.

Forbes Darby updated the Workgroup on Communication and Outreach. He discussed the new MRII logo and outreach information that has been approved for release and will be incorporated into future MRII public materials. The Communications Team is also working on an overhaul of the MRII website to incorporate the new look of MRII and make it more user friendly. They are also working on an e-mail distribution to everyone involved with the MRII process to keep people updated.

Beverly Sauls updated the workgroup on the 1/9/08 conference call with Pres Pate, Rob Andrews, and workgroup chairs:

- \$3.5 million budget for MRII approved by Congress, NMFS is waiting for money to be appropriated so that projects can be funded.
- Funds possibly will be available within a few weeks.
- Rob Andrews drafted a Statement of Work (SOW) for the For-Hire Puerto Rico pilot project. He is working with Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission for this money to be appropriated.
- NMFS Science and Technology is currently recruiting experts to serve as consultants for MRIP projects. They have contacted Ken Pollock, Lynn Stokes and Jay Breidt from the NRC Review Panel, who have agreed to be consultants and who will also recommend more consultants to possibly serve on MRII projects.
- Pres Pate announced that the NRC Review Panel will be briefed on the progress of the MRII and will be asked to give their assessment of that progress and whether it satisfies all the concerns raised during their review.

Meeting Summaries:

- Summaries of all workgroup conference calls and meetings from this point forward will be posted on the MRII public website. Summaries will be distributed to the workgroup for their review and approval before posting.

Project Leadership and Participation:

- Pres Pate has asked for names of project leads for each of the For-Hire Workgroup Projects.
- For the Inventory Document, Beverly Sauls is the project lead and the authors who are writing each section are project team members.
- For the Puerto Rico Pilot project, Craig Lilyestrom is the project lead. He has recruited Zulena Cortes from his agency to also assist as a project team member to supervise the

work on the ground. The selected contractor for the project will also be responsible for much of the work.

- For the Independent Review of For-Hire Methods, Tom Sminkey agreed to be the project lead and coordinate the review through the Center for Independent Experts.
  - The group discussed a timeline for drafting a statement of work for the independent reviewers and agreed on the end of February for the first draft.
  - The draft will include specific language on products and outcomes expected from the review. The draft will be reviewed by the For-Hire Workgroup.
  - The reviewers will be asked to weigh the special data and management needs of each region when making their recommendations.
  - Tom envisioned the need for at least one workgroup member from each region to commit to preparing presentations on for-hire methods, specific data and management needs, and benefits/drawbacks to each method for the reviewers. No one objected to this request.

#### Puerto Rico Pilot Project

- Beverly Sauls updated the group on progress.
- Workgroup members expressed an interest in receiving updates on progress at regular intervals. Progress will also need to be reported on regularly to the Operations Team.
- Workgroup members requested an opportunity to review the Statement of Work prepared by Rob Andrews and offer a constructive review of requirements for progress monitoring and reporting.
- Beverly Sauls will distribute the SOW to workgroup members.
- Beverly Sauls will schedule a conference call with Craig Lilyestrom early next week since he could not be present for this call. Any interested workgroup members are invited to participate.

#### Collaboration Request from Data Management and Standards Workgroup (DMSW)

- Vivian Matter from DMSW is project lead for the design and development of a database to describe all recreational data collection methods and data elements. The database will serve as metadata that will be regularly updated.
- To avoid overlap with the For-Hire Workgroup, the DMSW has requested that we input information on all for-hire data collection programs into their database.
- There will also be assistance from Science and Technology to inventory the data elements from for-hire data sets.
- The For-Hire Workgroup agreed to collaborate with the DMSW on this project by entering information on for-hire data collection methods into their database.

#### Collaboration Request from Design and Analysis Workgroup (DAWG):

- Richard Cody from DAWG is project lead on a project plan to evaluate potential gaps and bias in the for-hire guide fishery.
- The project team for this project is currently revising the project plan at the request of the Operations Team. They would like to collaborate with the For-Hire Workgroup on this project.
- Beverly Sauls and Michelle Kasprzak agreed to participate in the next conference call with that project team.

#### Other Collaborations:

- Workgroup members expressed an interest in being updated and possibly involved in the DAWG project plan to assess discard data.
- Beverly Sauls will contact Rob Andrews from DAWG to let him know there is interest if they would like input or assistance from the FHW.

#### Progress on Inventory Document:

- Beverly Sauls has received the following draft sections:
  - Steve Crooke, Pacific Coast Region
  - Tom Sminkey, Mid/South Atlantic Region
  - Michelle Kasprzak, Gulf of Mexico Region
  - Mike Burton, S. Atl. And Gulf of Mexico Headboat
- Drafts to be turned in by 1/25/08
  - Nicole Bartlette, Pacific Islands
  - Scott Meyer, Alaska
  - Barry Clifford, northeast VTR
- B. Sauls will discuss the 1/25/08 deadline with Craig Lilyestrom for the Caribbean section to see if he can meet this deadline.
- B. Sauls will participate in a conference call with Scott Saury on 1/14/08 to learn about the new collaboration tool for document sharing.
- B. Sauls will post draft Inventory Document sections already received on this website.
- Workgroup members will download draft sections and review before the next FHWG conference call.

#### Next Conference Call:

- Tentatively scheduled for 1/29/2008 at 2:00 pm eastern time.
- Agenda: short discussion of draft inventory document sections.